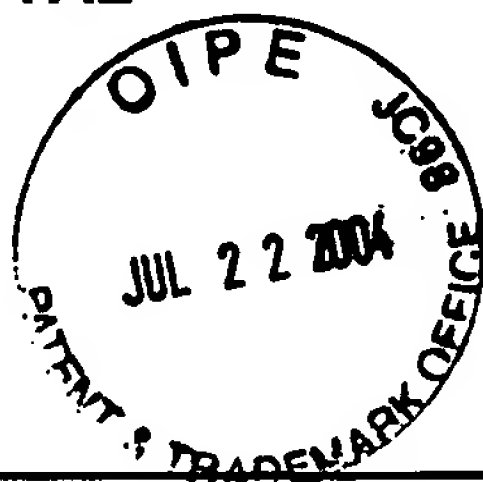


**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:  
**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Application Number: 09/994,631

Confirmation Number: 7707

Filing Date: November 28, 2001

First Named Inventor: Hideyuki Matsushima

Group Art Unit: 3677

Examiner: A. Jackson

Attorney Docket Number: 05711.0131

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114: Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, application must request non-entry of such amendment.**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed:
- i. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- iv. ☒ Other - Replacement Drawings

2. **Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees**

07/23/2004 SZEWDIE1 00000038 09994631

- a. ☒ The filing fee is calculated as follows:
- i. ☒ \$770.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Petition for extension of time for (1 (one) Month) \$110.00
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$880.00 enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

01 FC:1801

770.00 0P

**Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required**

Name: F. Leslie Bessenger III

Reg. No.: 39,108

Signature:

*F. Leslie Bessenger III*

Date:

*July 21, 2004*

**Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: [Date]

Name: [Text]

Signature:

Date:



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 05711.0131

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Hideyuki MATSUSHIMA et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3677
	)	
Application No.: 09/994,631	)	Examiner: A. Jackson
	)	
Filed: November 28, 2001	)	
	)	
For: SNAP FASTENER	)	Confirmation No.: 7707

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows::

**Amendments to the Specification** are included in this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** are included in this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment sections of this paper.